DATU PIANG OF A HUNDRED OR MORE WIVES AND OF A HUNDRED OR MORE CHILDREN

Yes, of a hundred or more wives and of a hundred or more children! Datu Piang could never recall exactly how many. The most glamorous figure in the Cotabato region of Mindanao since centuries ago when Kabungsuwan ruled there. Friend of Moros, Chinese, Spaniards, Americans, and Filipinos. Progressive in his ways, and the loyal supporter of the Government. The wealthiest Moro of his day. The most powerful chief in Mindanao. That was Datu Piang, the grand old man of Cotabato.

In the early part of the nineteenth century Tan Toy (Toya), an Amoy Chinese, wandered into Dulawan in Northern Mindanao. To the Chinaman and a Moro woman of the vicinity six sons were born. Piang was the youngest. After the death of his father, despite his youth, he took upon himself the family responsibilities. His Chinese blood contributed the sagacity and industry that brought him wealth and influence, and his Moro blood made him a Mohammedan, to which faith he was loyal to the last. For more than half a century Datu Piang exercised a power that was unchallenged in Cotabato. Fortunately he exercised that power to the great advantage of his people. For instance, the Datu set the example by sending his children to the public schools, and he encouraged the children of his followers to do likewise.

About fifty miles up the Cotabato River was

the large Maguindanaw village of Kuduarangan (Dulawan) where Datu Piang reigned. There he entertained on a grand scale. To visit him came lowly Moros and Governors-General, neighboring Datus and Generals of the United States Army, all certain of a cordial welcome. To most of his visitors, certainly to all American officers, Piang made presents. Colonel White reports that the Datu had a carefully graduated scale